

A Brief History

of the Unitarian Parish House.

The building now known as the Unitarian Parish House was formerly a large shed situated in the old shipyard, near the Bluefish River Bridge, on the southerly side of the River, and used in old times to house the timber for ships which were built there. At the time the writer first remembers it, about twenty years ago, it was not in use, the yard being abandoned; although one or two ^{ships} were afterwards built there. It was entirely empty, with no floors, and the children, of which the writer was one, used to play there, walking on the sills and running on the earth below. Some years afterwards it was purchased by Mr. Peleg Brooks, at that time running a stage coach with four horses, to Kingston to meet steam-car trains to Boston, as there was no railroad then, in Duxbury.

and moved to its present situation. After the steam railroad was put through from Lehigh, the stage coach was discontinued, and later the building was purchased by a Society of Ladies called the "Unitarian Aid Society" which was ^{for charitable purposes" & incorporated in 1876} formed in 1873 for the purpose of maintaining a Public Hall, to be used for lectures, and the establishment of a Public Library. The earlier records having been lost, the details of making the building into a Hall, are not at hand, but with the help of interested and generous friends, the difficulties were finally overcome, and the Hall was opened on June 30th 1876, with Literary Exercises and a Large Ball. It was given the name of Duxbury Hall, and a sign with that name placed on the front. In 1877 it was voted (there being no capital stock) to form a Corporation composed of a part of its members, and to give a mortgage on

Members of the Corporation.

Sarah J. Cushman	Lucy B. Wilde
Lucy B. Nickerson	1905 Lizzie N. Green
Ada J. Gifford	" Fannie Delano
Julia M. Wilde	(Thurs.) " Lucy B. Nickerson, 2d.
Julia S. R. Winsor	" Fannie C. Joyce
Ally M. Weston	" Margie S. Sampson
Catherine D. Delano	? Hattie Peterson (Lucy)
Deborah C. Peterson	? Mary C. Goodspeed (B. 1905)
Margaret A. Sampson	1905 George A. Green
Georgia W. Bedwin	J. Laurence Wilde
Maria L. Sampson	? Henry Nickerson
Jerusha G. Hallaway	J. D. Gaines

Honorary Members.

Mrs Gertrude Weston	Mr Stephen W. Gifford
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A number of Society Members
of which there is no list.

The Hall of \$24,000.00, the interest to be paid by the Society,
through letting the Hall, holding fairs, &c. which was finally
discharged on October 22^d 1890. The Corporation being re-
duced as to its means, but the Hall was not much used for a
few years, and in 1904 a meeting was held at which it was vo-
ted, to sell the building, which was accordingly done that
year, and the funds of the Society, remaining after all costs were
paid, and the Corporation dissolved, were handed over to the
Duxbury Public Library by legal advice, and the decision of
the Attorney General, in May 1905. (see above.)

The Hall Building was purchased by the Misses Lucy &
Gerusha F. Hathaway, and presented to the Unitarian
Parish, for a Parish House, 1904.

L. H.

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The building now known as the Unitarian Parish House was formerly a large shed situated in the old shipyard, near the Bluefish River Bridge, on the southerly side of the River and used in old times to house the timber for ships which were built there. At that time the writer first remembers it, about seventy years ago, it was not in use, the yard being abandoned, although one or two ships were afterwards built there. It was entirely empty, with no floors, and the children, of which the writer was one, used to play there, walking on the sills and running on the earth below. Some years afterwards it was purchased by Pelig Brooks, at that time remaining a stagecoach with four horses, to Kingston to meet steam car trains to Boston, as there was no railroad then in Duxbury, and moved to its present situation. After the steam railroad was put through from Cohasset, the stagecoach was discontinued, and later the building was purchased by a Society of Ladies called the "Unitarian Aid Society" which was formed in 1873 for charitable purposes and incorporated in 1876 for the purpose of "maintaining a Public Hall, to be used for lectures and the establishment of a Public Library." The earlier records having been lost, the details of making the building into a Hall, are not at hand, but with the help of interested and generous friends, the difficulties were finally overcome, and the Hall was opened on June 30th, 1876, with Literary Exercises and a Large Ball. It was given the name of "Duxbury Hall", and a sign with that name placed on the front. In 1877 it was voted (there being no capital stock) to form a Corporation composed of a part of its members and to give a mortgage on Hall of \$24,000, that interest to be paid by the Society, through letting the Hall, holding fairs, etc which was finally discharged on October 22d, 1890. The corporation being reduced as to its members but the Hall was not much used for a few years, and in January 1904 a meeting was held at which it was voted, to sell the building, which was accordingly done that year, and the friends of the Society, remaining after all costs were paid, and the Corporation dissolved, were handed over to the Duxbury Public Library by legal advice, and the decision of the Attorney General in May 1905.

The Hall Building was purchased (for \$2000) by the (Melissce Luray??) and Jerusha (F?) Hathaway and presented to the Unitarian Parish for a Parish House, 1904.

Members of the Corporation